

Application No. 09/764,729
Response to Office Action June 24, 2005
Docket: 9300-1

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action, claims 40-80 were pending in this application. The Office Action indicated that claims 40, 43-45, 47-57, 66-68, 74, 77 and 80 were rejected and that claims 41, 42, 46, 54-65, 69-73, 75, 76, 78, and 79 were allowed. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. All Claims are in Condition for Allowance

Although the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertions regarding U.S. Patent No. 5,055,658 to Cockburn and U.S. Patent No. 5,592,169 to Nakamura et al., claims have been amended and/or cancelled to expedited allowance of this application. More specifically, claims 40, 66-68, 74 and 78 have been cancelled and claims 43-45, 47, 49, 52, 53, and 80 have been amended to depend from allowed base claims. New claims 81-88 are based on claims 43-45, 47, 49, 52, 53, and 80 and depend from allowed claim 42. No new matter has been added.

Amended claim 77 includes features of now cancelled claim 78, which was previously indicated as being allowed. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, each of the independent claims is believed to be in condition for allowance. Each dependent claim is believed to be allowable based on their dependence from an allowable independent claim and for further features recited therein.

II. Fees

In this Amendment, six (6) claims have been cancelled and eight (8) dependent claims have been added, resulting in a total number of two (2) dependent claims for which additional claim fees are required. Authorization is given to charge \$50.00 in additional claim fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0951, as noted on the enclosed fee calculation sheet. Authorization is also given to charge any other necessary fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Application No. 09/764,729
Response to Office Action June 24, 2005
Docket: 9300-1


III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMANTENTERFITT

Dated: 8-12-05


Mark D. Passler, Reg. No. 40,764
J. Rodman Steele, Reg. No. 25,931
Customer No. 30448
P.O. Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Tel: 561-653-5000

Docket No. 9300-1